HIS MAIESTIES DECLARATION

To all His loving *Subjects*,

OF

HIS TRUE INTENTIONS

in advancing lately to

BRAINCEFORD.

Printed by His MAJESTIES Command

AT OXFORD,

By LEONARD LICHFIELD Printer *to the Vniversity*. 1642.

HIS

MAJESTIES

DECLARATION

To all His loving

Subjects,

OF

HIS TRUE INTENTION

in advancing Lady

BRANCESTROW.

His Majesties
DECLARATION
TO ALL HIS LOVING SUBJECTS
of His true Intentions in advancing
lately to Brainceford.

THough Our Reputation be most deare to Vs, and especially in those cases wherein the truth of Our most solemne Professions (and by consequence of Our Christianity) is questioned, yet it is not only for the Vindication of that, and to clear Our selfe from such Aspersions, but withall to preserve Our Subjects in their just Esteeme of and Duty to Vs, and from being engaged into Crimes and Dangers by those malitious reports, so spightfully fram'd and cunningly spread against Vs concerning Our late advancing to Brainceford,

ford, *That We have resolv'd to publish this Our following Declaration.*

AT *Colebrooke*, on Friday the 11th of *November*, We received a Petition from both Our Houses of Parliament, by the Earle of *Northumberland*, the Earle of *Pembrooke* and *Montgomery*, the Lord *Wenman*, Mr *Perpoint*, and Sr *John Hippisly*, And indeed Wee were well pleased to see it so much liker to a Petition, then the other Papers We had often of late received under that name, and return'd to it the next day so gratious an Answer, that We assure Our selves could not but be very satisfactory to all that were truly lovers of Peace. The copies of both doe here follow.

TO THE KING'S *MOST EXCELLENT* MAJESTY,

The humble Petition of the Lords and Commons now assembled in PARLIAMENT.

WEE Your Majesties most loyall Subjects the Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled, being affected with a deep and piercing sense of the miseries of this Kingdom, and of the dangers to Your Majesties Person, as the present Affaires now stand, and much quickned therein with the sad

ſad conſideration of the great effuſion of Blood at the late Battaile, and of the Loſſe of ſo many eminent Perſons; And farther weighing the Addition of Loſſe, miſery and danger to Your Majeſty and Your Kingdome, which muſt enſue, if both Armies ſhould again joyn in another Battail, as without God's eſpeciall Bleſſing, and Your Majeſties concurrence with Your Houſes of Parliament, will not probably be avoyded.

We cannot but believe, that a ſutable Impreſſion of tenderneſſe and Compaſſion is wrought in Your Majeſties Royall Heart, being Your ſelfe an eye-witneſſe of the bloody and ſorrowfull deſtruction of ſo many of Your Subjects, And that Your Majeſty doth apprehend what diminution of Your own Power and Greatneſſe will follow, and that all Your Kingdoms will thereby be ſo weakned, as to become ſubject to the Attempts of any ill-affected to this State. In all which reſpects, we aſſure our ſelves that Your Majeſty will be inclined graciouſly to accept this our humble Petition, that the miſery and deſolation of this Kingdom may be ſpeedily removed and prevented; For the effecting whereof wee moſt humbly beſeech Your Majeſty to appoint ſome convenient place, not farre from the City of London, where Your Majeſty will be pleaſed to reſide, untill Committees of both Houſes of Parliament may attend Your Majeſty with ſome Propoſitions for the removall of theſe bloody Diſtempers and Diſtractions, and ſetling the State of the Kingdom in ſuch a manner as may conduce to the Preſervation of God's true Religion, Your Majeſties Honour, Safety and Proſperity, and to the Peace, Comfort and Security of all Your People.

His Majesties *Answer to the aforesaid Petition.*

WEE take God to witnesse how deeply We are affected with the miseries of this Kingdom, which heretofore We have stroven, as much as in Vs lay, to prevent, It being sufficiently known to all the world, That as We were not the first that took up Armes, so We have shewed Our readinesse of Composing all things in a faire way by Our severall offers of Treaty, and shall be glad now at length to find any such Inclinations in others, The same tenderneſſe to avoyd the Destruction of Our Subjects (whom We know to be Our greatest strength) which would allwayes make Our greatest Victories bitter to Vs, shall make Us willingly hearken to such Propositions whereby these bloody distempers may be stopped, and the great distractions of this Kingdome setled to Gods glory, Our Honour, and the welfare and flourishing of Our People; And, to that end, shall reside at Our own Castle at *Windsore* (if the Forces there shall be removed) till Committees may have time to attend Vs with the same (which, to prevent the Inconveniences that will intervene, We wish may be hastned) and shall be ready there (or if that be refused Vs) at any place where We shall be, to receive such Propositions as aforesaid from both Our Houses of Parliament. Doe you your Duty; We will not be wanting to Ours; God of his mercy give a Blessing.

But

BUT the same night after the Messengers were gone, certain Information was brought unto Vs, That the same day the *Earle* of *Essex* had drawn his forces with great store of Ordinance out of *London* towards Vs, upon which a Councell of Warr being present, and We having there considered, upon debate, Our present Condition, That being already almost surrounded by his forces, some at *Windsore*, some at *Kingston*, and some at *Acton*, If We suffered the Remainder to possesse *Braineford*, We should be totally hemm'd in, and Our Army deprived of all convenience of either moving or subsisting. Yet how necessary soever it appear'd, We could not obtaine Our owne Consent to advance towards *Braineford*, and either prepossesse it, or dispossesse them of it, till We had satisfied Our selves that it was as lawfull as necessary, and fully weighed all, that not only reason but malice it selfe, (which We knew to be very watchfull upon Our Actions) could object against it. We considerd first that it could not reasonably be esteem'd an Aversion from Peace, and an Intention to interrupt the Treaty then in expectation, Since on the other side We had cause to beleeve by the former rejection of Our offers of Treaty, when We were suppos'd to be in no condition of strength, That if We would not thus preserve Our Selves from being so encompass'd as to come into their Powers, the very possibility of a Treaty would immediately vanish. We considered next, that much lesse could it be interpreted any Breach of Faith, since willingnesse to receive Propositions of Treaty was never held to amount to a suspension of Armes; Since otherwise Wee must (because mention of a Treaty had been once made) by the same Logick have been bound not to hinder them

to

to encompasse Vs on all parts to *Colebrooke* Townes end; Since no word to that purpose (of any suspension) was in Our Answer; Nay, since in that (by wishing their Propositions might be hastned, to prevent the Inconveniences which would intervene) We implyed, that by this Armes were not suspended; And since their own Votes of proceeding vigorously notwithstanding the Petition, and their own actions in sending after their Messengers great store of forces with Ordinance so neer to Vs (having before girt Vs in on all other parts, and sent men and Ordinance to *Kingston* after the safe Conduct asked of Vs) implyed the same.

Being resolved upon these Reasons, That this advancing was necessary and just, We were not yet satisfied till We had endeavoured the same day (though the interruptions of shooting stopt up the way till the next) to satisfie Our Parliament and People of the same, and that Peace was still Our desire, We to that end directed a Message by *John White* Esquire, which was so received, that his danger of being put to death for bringing it, and the imprisonment of him and the Trumpeter that went with him in the Gate-house, shew'd that the very Law of Nations was by some no more consider'd then all other Lawes had been before. A Copy of which Message hereafter followes, to show how little temptation the matter of that gave them for such an usage.

His

His *Majesties* Mesage of the 12. of November.

Whereas the last night being the 11th. *of* November, *after the departure of the Committee of both Our Houses with Our gracious Answer to their Petition, We received certain Information (having till then heard nothing of it, either from the Houses Committee or otherwise) That the Lord of* Essex *had drawn his forces out of* London *towards Us, which hath necessitated Our sudden Resolution to march with Our forces to* Brainceford; *We have thought hereby fit to signifie to both Our Houses of Parliament, That We are no lesse desirous of the Peace of the Kingdome, Then We expresst in Our aforesaid Answer; The Propositions for which We shall willingly receive where ever We are, And desire (if it may be) to receive them at* Brainceford *this night, or early to morrow morning; That all possible speed may be made in so good a worke, and all inconveniences, otherwise likely to intervene, may be avoyded.*

AND to justifie yet further, that Our Intention was no other then was here profeſt, aſſoone as We were informed that the *Earle* of *Eſſex* his forces were departed from *Kingſton*, before any apparance or notice of further forces from *London* (Our end of not being incloſed being obtained) We gave orders to quit *Brainceford*, and to march away, and poſſeſſe that place.

We cannot but make one Argument more of the truth of Our Profeſſion, that this was all Our end, and that We had not the leaſt thought, by ſo advancing, to ſurpriſe and ſack *London* (which the malignant party would infuſe into that Our Citty) And that is: That probably God Almighty would not have given ſuch a Bleſſing to Our Journey, as to have aſſiſted Vs ſo both by Land and Water, as with leſſe then a third part of Our foot, and with the loſſe but of ten men, to beat two of their beſt Regiments out of both *Braincefords*, for all the great advantage of their workes in them, to kill him who commanded in chief, and kill and drown many others, to take five hundred Priſoners, more Armes, eleven Colours, and good ſtore of Ammunition, fifteen Peeces of Ordinance (whereof We ſunke moſt that We brought not away) and then unfought with, & unoffered at, neerer then by Ordinance, to march away, notwithſtanding the great diſadvantage of Our Forces by the difficulties of the Paſſages, if He who is the ſearcher of all hearts and truth it ſelfe had not known the truth of Our Profeſſions, and the Innocence of Our Heart, And how farre We were from deſerving thoſe horrid Accuſations of falſehood and Treachery caſt ſo point blank upon Our own Perſon, That it would amaſe any man to ſee them ſuffered to be printed in Our Citty of *London*,

if

if any thing of that kind could be a wonder after ſo many of the ſame, and how really they deſire Accommodation, who upon this have Voted they will have none.

Theſe Our Reaſons for this Action, this Our ſatisfaction ſent for it, and this Bleſſing of God's upon it, will (We doubt not) cleere Us to all indifferent perſons both of the Ieſuiticall Counſells, and the perſonall Treachery to which ſome have preſumed ſo impudently to impute it; And God ſo bleſſe Our future Actions as We have delivered the truth of this.

FINIS.

FINIS.

278259